

Central Intelligence Agency

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(n) *Records or agency records* means all documents, irrespective of physical or electronic form, made or received by the CIA in pursuance of federal law or in connection with the transaction of public business and appropriate for preservation by the CIA as evidence of the organization, functions, policies, decisions, procedures, operations, or other activities of the CIA or because of the informational value of the data contained therein; it does not include:

(1) *Books, newspapers, magazines, journals, magnetic or printed transcripts of electronic broadcasts, or similar public sector materials* acquired generally and/or maintained for library or reference purposes; to the extent that such materials are incorporated into any form of analysis or otherwise distributed or published by the Agency, they are fully subject to the disclosure provisions of the FOIA;

(2) *Index, filing, or museum documents* made or acquired and preserved solely for reference, indexing, filing, or exhibition purposes; and

(3) *Routing and transmittal sheets and notes and filing or destruction notes* which do not also include information, comment, or statements of substance;

(o) *Responsive records* means those documents (i.e., records) which the Agency has determined to be within the scope of a FOIA request.

62 FR 32481, June 16, 1997, as amended at 72 FR 39316, July 18, 2007]

§ 1900.03 Contact for general information and requests.

For general information on this part, to inquire about the FOIA program at CIA, or to file a FOIA request (or expression of interest), please direct your communication in writing to the Information and Privacy Coordinator, Central Intelligence Agency, Washington, DC 20505. Such inquiries will also be accepted by facsimile at (703) 613-3007. For general information or status information on pending cases only, the telephone number is (703) 613-1287. Collect calls cannot be accepted.

§ 1900.04 Suggestions and complaints.

The Agency welcomes suggestions or complaints with regard to its administration of the Freedom of Information Act. Many requesters will receive pre-

paid, customer satisfaction survey cards. Letters of suggestion or complaint should identify the specific purpose and the issues for consideration. The Agency will respond to all substantive communications and take such actions as determined feasible and appropriate.

FILING OF FOIA REQUESTS

§ 1900.11 Preliminary Information.

Members of the public shall address all communications to the CIA Coordinator as specified at 32 CFR 1900.03 and clearly delineate the communication as a request under the Freedom of Information Act and this regulation. CIA employees receiving a communication in the nature of a FOIA request shall expeditiously forward same to the Coordinator. Requests and appeals on requests, referrals, or coordinations received from members of the public who owe outstanding fees for information services at this or other federal agencies will not be accepted and action on all pending requests shall be terminated in such circumstances.

§ 1900.12 Requirements as to form and content.

(a) *Required information.* No particular form is required. A request need only reasonably describe the records of interest. This means that documents must be described sufficiently to enable a professional employee familiar with the subject to locate the documents with a reasonable effort. Commonly this equates to a requirement that the documents must be locatable through the indexing of our various systems. Extremely broad or vague requests or requests requiring research do not satisfy this requirement.

(b) *Additional information for fee determination.* In addition, a requester should provide sufficient personal identifying information to allow us to determine the appropriate fee category. A requester should also provide an agreement to pay all applicable fees or fees not to exceed a certain amount or request a fee waiver.

(c) *Otherwise.* Communications which do not meet these requirements will be considered an expression of interest and the Agency will work with, and

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offer suggestions to, the potential requester in order to define a request properly.

§ 1900.13 Fees for record services.

(a) *In general.* Search, review, and reproduction fees will be charged in accordance with the provisions below relating to schedule, limitations, and category of requester. Applicable fees will be due even if our search locates no responsive records or some or all of the responsive records must be denied under one or more of the exemptions of the Freedom of Information Act.

(b) *Fee waiver requests.* Records will be furnished without charge or at a reduced rate whenever the Agency determines:

(1) That, as a matter of administrative discretion, the interest of the United States Government would be served, or

(2) That it is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to the public understanding of the operations or activities of the United States Government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester; the Agency shall consider the following factors when making this determination:

(i) Whether the subject of the request concerns the operations or activities of the United States Government; and, if so,

(ii) Whether the disclosure of the requested documents is likely to contribute to an understanding of United States Government operations or activities; and, if so,

(iii) Whether the disclosure of the requested documents will contribute to public understanding of United States Government operations or activities; and, if so,

(iv) Whether the disclosure of the requested documents is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of United States Government operations and activities; and

(v) Whether the requester has a commercial interest that would be furthered by the requested disclosure; and, if so,

(vi) Whether the disclosure is primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

(c) *Fee waiver appeals.* Denials of requests for fee waivers or reductions may be appealed to the Chair of the Agency Release Panel via the Coordinator. A requester is encouraged to provide any explanation or argument as to how his or her request satisfies the statutory requirement set forth above.

(d) *Time for fee waiver requests and appeals.* It is suggested that such requests and appeals be made and resolved prior to the initiation of processing and the incurring of costs. However, fee waiver requests will be accepted at any time prior to the release of documents or the completion of a case, and fee waiver appeals within forty-five (45) days of our initial decision subject to the following condition: If processing has been initiated, then the requester must agree to be responsible for costs in the event of an adverse administrative or judicial decision.

(e) *Agreement to pay fees.* In order to protect requesters from large and/or unanticipated charges, the Agency will request specific commitment when it estimates that fees will exceed \$100.00. The Agency will hold in abeyance for forty-five (45) days requests requiring such agreement and will thereafter deem the request closed. This action, of course, would not prevent an individual from refiling his or her FOIA request with a fee commitment at a subsequent date.

(f) *Deposits.* The Agency may require an advance deposit of up to 100 percent of the estimated fees when fees may exceed \$250.00 and the requester has no history of payment, or when, for fees of any amount, there is evidence that the requester may not pay the fees which would be accrued by processing the request. The Agency will hold in abeyance for forty-five (45) days those requests where deposits have been requested.

(g) *Schedule of fees—(1) In general.* The schedule of fees for services performed in responding to requests for records is established as follows:

Personnel Search and Review		
Clerical/Technical	Quarter hour	\$5.00
Professional/Supervisory	Quarter hour	10.00
Manager/Senior Professional	Quarter hour	18.00